

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 3:34 PM
To: 'Dennis Reinert'
Subject: RE: Duke Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Reinert,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116872>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Executive Assistant
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
803-896-5133
Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text PSCAGENDAS to 39492

RECEIVED
JAN 16 2019
PSC SC
CLERK'S OFFICE

From: Dennis Reinert [mailto:_____.com]
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 2:52 PM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: Duke Rate Increase

Sir:

Once again Duke Energy is requesting another rate hike. We all know the routine, they ask for 12-13%, knowing that the PSC will grant them "only" around 10%, which is what they really want anyway. Recall in 2013 they requested 15.1% increase and a 14.5% base rate increase in July 2016 (news.duke-energy.com/). Meanwhile, over the same period, Social security recipients received 5.5% COLA increases. This time I urge you to seriously consider whether to grant this request. While I have no issue with a privately held company earning a profit, when that company has a monopoly on a

necessity like electricity some limitations have to be recognized. As it is, Duke Energy profits have increased over a half Billion dollars over the past 4 years. Average private sector employees incomes have stagnated while those on fixed incomes fare much worse. I hope you do realize that whenever Uncle Sam, in his faux generosity, provides a small raise to Social Security (almost always smaller than federal government employee cost of living increases) he almost always takes most of it back in Medicare increases, leaving the person attempting to live on that income worse off than before the raise. For example, per the Greenville News article, a homeowner using just 1000 kwh per month can expect an increase of \$15.57 which will consume much of the 2.8% (average increase of \$39) increase of many low end social security recipients. Put on top of that the increases everyone else, such as water and natural gas, are adding to their monthly bills and once again the senior citizens and those on disability take it on the chin. Even though Duke Energy keeps telling us that our rates are low compared to others, analysis by 3rd parties like Wallethub keep reporting that South Carolina has the highest monthly electricity costs on average. In one of the lowest income states in the country, why is this so? Where did the money from the 35 to 21% corporate tax cut go? For a corporation with revenues over \$20 billion that has to be significant, I haven't seen a single penny of that trickle down from corporate coffers to the customers, not from ANY of the utilities supplying me. We know where it's going, simply type Duke Energy executive pay increases into your search line and you can get an idea. High nationally average rates, big increases for corporate executives, a SCANA/Santee nuclear power plant fiasco, the indications are that our (the citizens of SC) PSC is not really looking out for us but is a rubber stamp for utility monopolies. Those of us on fixed incomes and in the private sector are not government employees, we do not receive the raises, extra paid holidays and insurance perks like they do, We do not have bankrupt retirement funds which must be bailed out by the taxpayers, We scratch and struggle every day as our daily living costs grow at a rate far exceeding our income increases. Isn't it time for our utility watchdogs, you in the PSC, to look out for the rest of us?

Thank you for your time and service to our state.

Mr. Dennis G. Reinert

